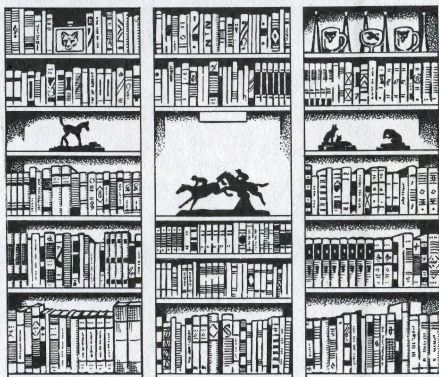
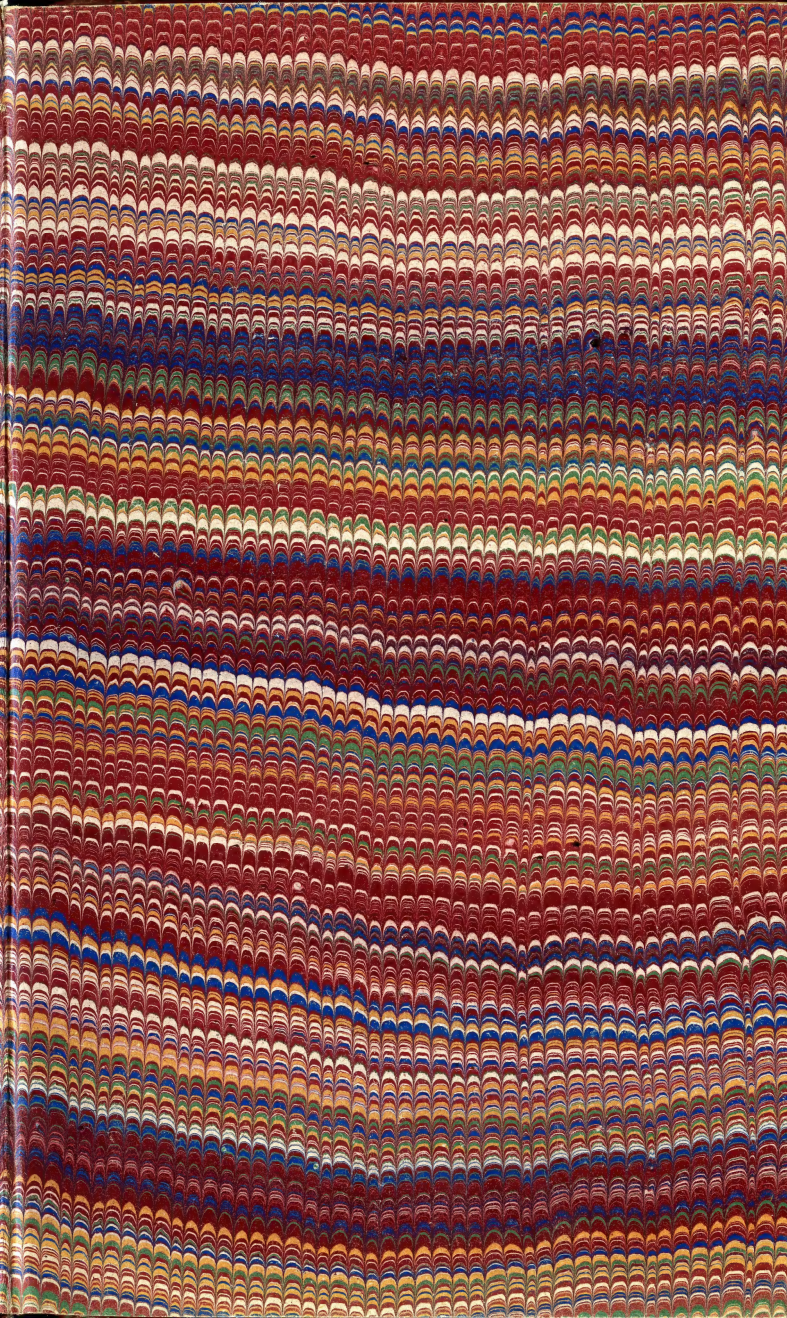


THE MEYNELLIAN SCIENCE
OR FOX-HUNTING
UPON SYSTEM





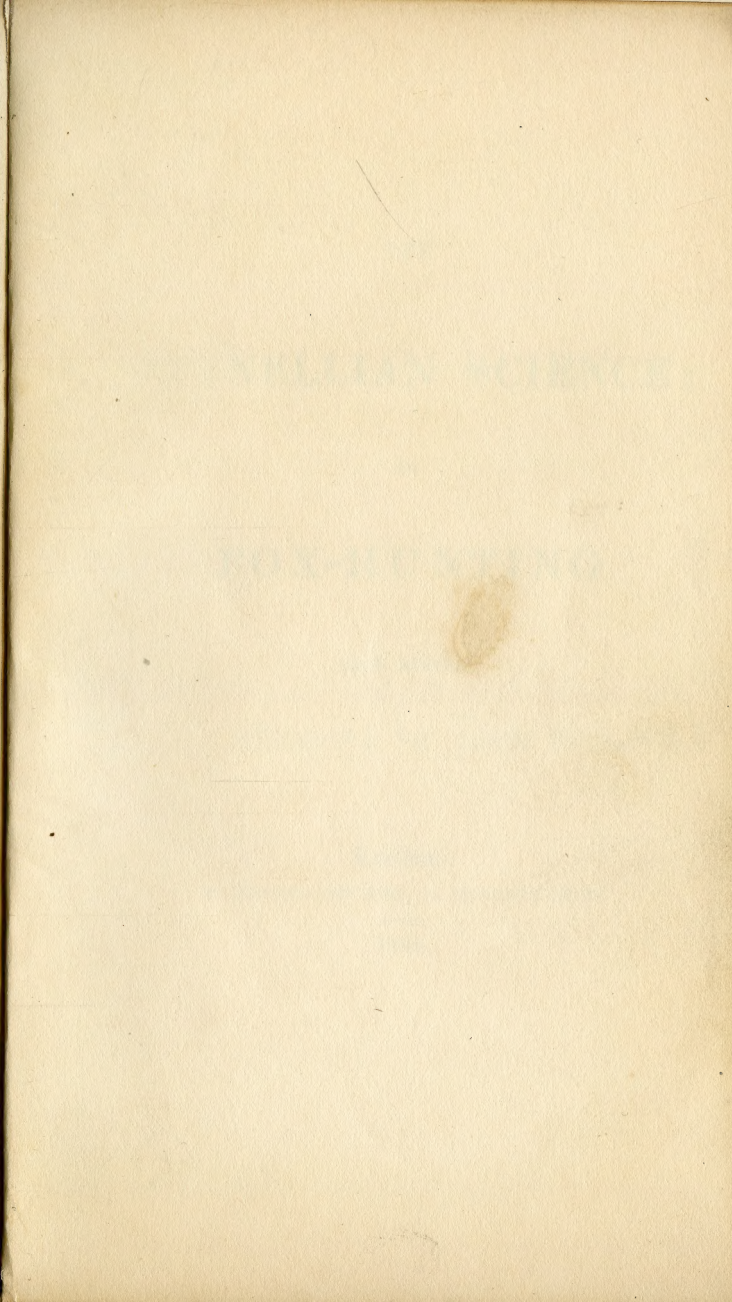
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JOHN AND MARTHA DANIELS



Dear Mary

from Sir Richard Sutton Bt.

November. 1849.



THE SCIENCE OF

PHYSICS

BY

THE
MEYNELLIAN SCIENCE;

OR,

FOX-HUNTING

UPON SYSTEM.

Attributed to JOHN HAWKES

London:

W. CLOWES AND SONS, 14, CHARING CROSS.

1848.

SYSTEM
OF
FOX-HUNTING,

&c. &c.

HUGO MEYNELL, Esq., of
Quorndon, in the county of Leicester,
was, doubtlessly, the most successful
Sportsman of his time ; producing the
steadiest, wisest, best, and handsomest
pack of Fox-Hounds in the kingdom.

His object in breeding Hounds, was to combine strength with beauty, and steadiness with high mettle.

His idea of perfection of shape, was short backs, open bosoms, straight legs, and compact feet; as the greatest and first considerations in form.

The first qualities he considered, were, fine noses, and stout runners.

In the spring of the year, he broke in his Hounds at Hare, to find out

their propensities, which, when at all flagrant, they early discovered; and he drafted them according to their defects.

After Hare-hunting, they were the remaining part of summer daily walked amongst Riot.

When the hunting season commenced, his Hounds were hunted in the woodlands, amidst abundance of Foxes, for two months.

In the month of November, the pack was carefully divided into the

Old and Young Pack. The Old Pack consisted of three years old and upwards, and no two years old was admitted, except a very high opinion was entertained of his virtues and abilities.

The Young Hounds were hunted twice a week, as much in woodlands, as possible, and in the most unpopular Coverts. The Young Pack had always a few couple of steady old Hounds with them. The Old Pack hunted the best country. When any bad faults were discovered, they

were immediately drafted, for fear of contamination.

Skirting, over-running the scent, and babbling, were the greatest faults.

Perfections consisted of true guiders, in hard running, and close patient hunters, in a cold scent, together with stoutness.

Mr. Meynell's Hounds were criticised by himself and his friends in the most minute manner. Every Hound

had his peculiar talents, and was sure to have a fair opportunity of displaying them. Some had the remarkable faculty of finding a Fox, which they would do, almost invariably, notwithstanding twenty or thirty couple were out in the same covert. Some had the propensity to hunt the doubles and short turns. Some were inclined to be hard runners. Some had a remarkable faculty of hunting the Drag of a Fox, which they would do very late in the day. And sometimes the hardest runners were the best hunters ; and fortu-

nate was the year when such excellences prevailed.

Mr. Meynell prided himself on the steadiness and docility of his Hounds ; and their hunting through sheep and hares, which they did in a very superior manner. He seldom, or never, attempted to lift his Hounds through sheep ; and from habit, and the great flocks the Hounds were accustomed to, they carried the scent on most correctly and expeditiously, much sooner than any lifting could accomplish.

Mr. Meynell was not fond of casting Hounds, when once they were laid upon the line of scent; he left it to them: he only encouraged them to take pains, and kept aloof, so that the steam of the horses could not interfere with the scent.

When a Fox was found in a Gorse covert, very little noise or encouragement was made; and when he went away, as soon as the Hounds were apprised of it, they did not come headlong after; but commenced very quietly, and settled

and collected together gradually, mending their pace, and, accumulating their force as they went along, completing what was emphatically termed—a terrible Burst.

When his Hounds came to a Check, every encouragement was given them to recover the scent, without the Huntsman getting amongst them, or Whippers-in driving them about, which is the common practice of most packs. The Hounds were hollo'd back to the place where they brought the scent, and

encouraged to try round in their own way, which they generally did successfully—avoiding the time lost in the mistaken practice of Casting the Hounds at the heels of the Huntsman.

When the Hounds were Cast, it was in two or three different lots, by Mr. Meynell, his Huntsman, and Whipper-in ; and not driven together in a body, like a flock of sheep. They were allowed to spread and use their own sagacity, at a very gentle pace ;

and not hurried about in a blustering manner, but patiently.

It was Mr. Meynell's opinion, that a great noise, and scolding of Hounds, made them wild. Correcting them in a quiet way, was the most judicious method.

Whippers-in should turn Hounds quietly, and not call after them in a noisy disagreeable manner.

When Hounds are going to the

Cry, they should be encouraged in a pleasant way; not driven and rated as if discord was a necessary ingredient in the sport and music of a fine Cry of Hounds. Whippers-in are too apt to think their own importance and consequence consists in shouting, holloing, and unnecessary activity. When Hounds can hear the Cry, they get together sooner than any Whipper-in can drive them. If any Hound is conceited and disinclined to go to the Cry, he should immediately be drafted.

Should there be only one Fox in cover, and two or three Hounds get away with him whilst the body of the pack are hunting the line behind, some judicious Sportsman should ride to them and view hollo for the rest of the pack to join them. It is the most certain way to ensure the Run, and the Hounds will very speedily get together, when properly treated. If there are many Foxes in cover, and one should go away, and the Hounds are running in various parts, you may, if a favourable opportunity presents itself, try to hollo the

pack away; but do not attempt it, without such favourable circumstance as a good rummaging in cover will do the Hounds service. When a Fox dwells in cover, and will not go away, the best plan is to leave him, and not kill him. Another day he will perhaps afford a good Run.

Blood was a thing Mr. Meynell was more indifferent about than most owners of Hounds. The wildest packs of Hounds were known to kill the most Foxes in cover; but

very seldom shewed good Runs over a country.

Hounds chopping Foxes in cover, is more a vice than a proof of their being good cover Hounds.

Murdering Foxes is a most absurd prodigality. Seasoned Foxes are as necessary to sport as experienced Hounds.

To obtain a good Run, your Hounds should not only have good abilities ;

but they should be experienced, and well acquainted with each other. To guide a scent well over a country, for a length of time, and through all the difficulties usually encountered, requires the best and most experienced abilities. A faulty Hound, or injudicious rider, by one improper step, may defeat the most promising Run.

Gentlemen, and every person who makes Hunting his pursuit, should learn to ride judiciously to Hounds. It is a contemplative amusemnet ; and

much good diversion might be promoted by a few regular precautions. The principal thing to attend to, is not to ride too near the Hounds, and always as much as possible anticipate a Check ; by which means the leading men will pull their horses up in time, and afford the Hounds fair opportunity to keep the line of scent unbroken. Sheep, Cattle, Teams at plough, and Arable land, are all causes of checks.

Thoughtless Sportsmen are apt to

press too much on Hounds, particularly down a road. Every one should consider that every check operates against the Hounds, and that scent is of a fleeting nature—soon lost—never again to be recovered.

Mr. Meynell's Hounds had more good Runs than any pack of his day. Two very extraordinary ones happened of a very rare description. One was a Run of one hour and twenty minutes without a check, and killed their Fox; the other was two hours and fifty

minutes without a Cast, and killed. The Hounds in the first Run kept well together, and only two horses performed it; the rest of the Field were unequal to its fleetness. The other Run alluded to was performed by the whole of the pack; and though all were up at the Death, two or three slackened in their pace just at the last. One horse only went the whole of it.

Mr. Meynell's natural taste led him to admire large Hounds; but his

experience convinced him that small ones were generally the stoutest, soundest, and in every respect, the most executive.

Various are the attentions necessary to manage a pack of Hounds, and quite sufficient to engage the occupation of an active man's mind. Should the Master of the Hounds have other important concerns to call his attention off, sensible and confidential agents and servants should be chosen in every department.

Fox-hunting is a manly and fine exercise, affording health to the body, and matter and food for a contemplative mind. In no situation are the faculties of man more displayed. Fortitude, good sense, and collectiveness of mind, have a wide field for exercise; and a sensible Sportsman would be a respectable character in any situation of life.

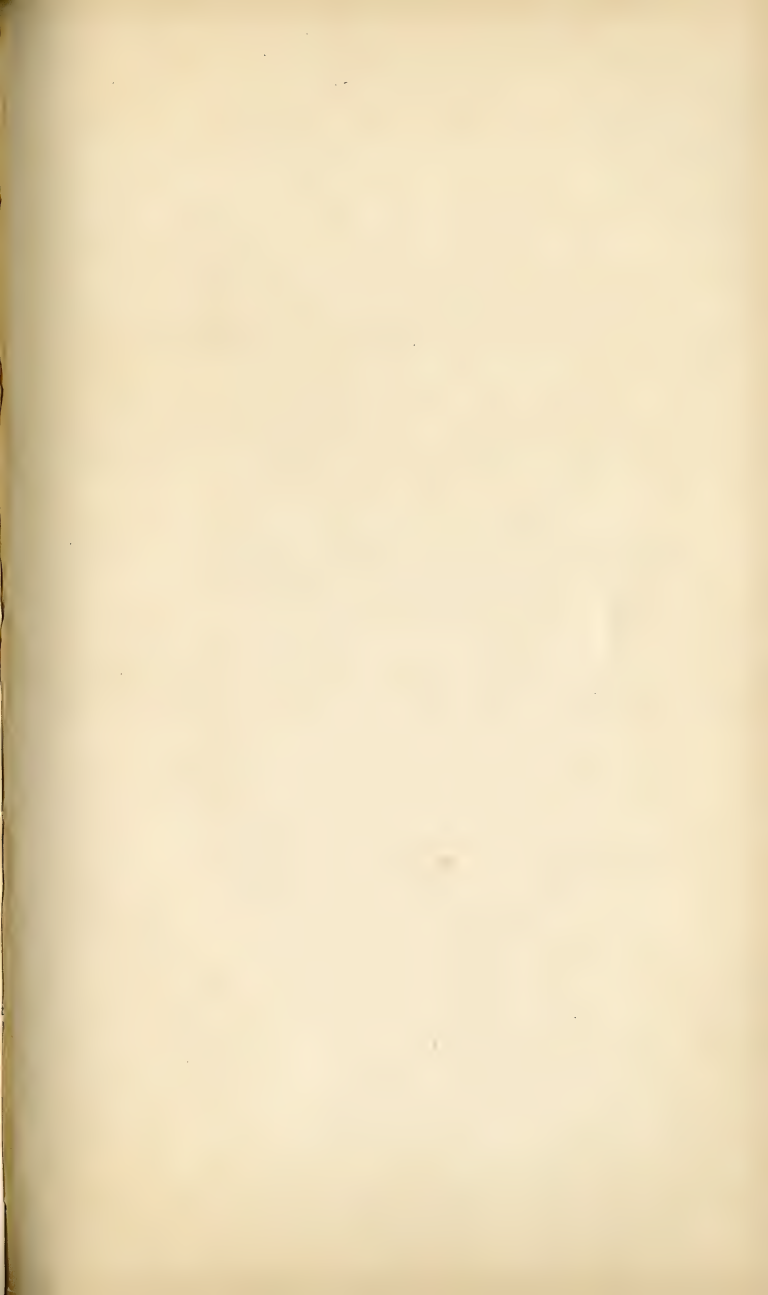
The Field is a most agreeable Coffee-house, and there is more real society to be met with there than in any other situation of life. It links

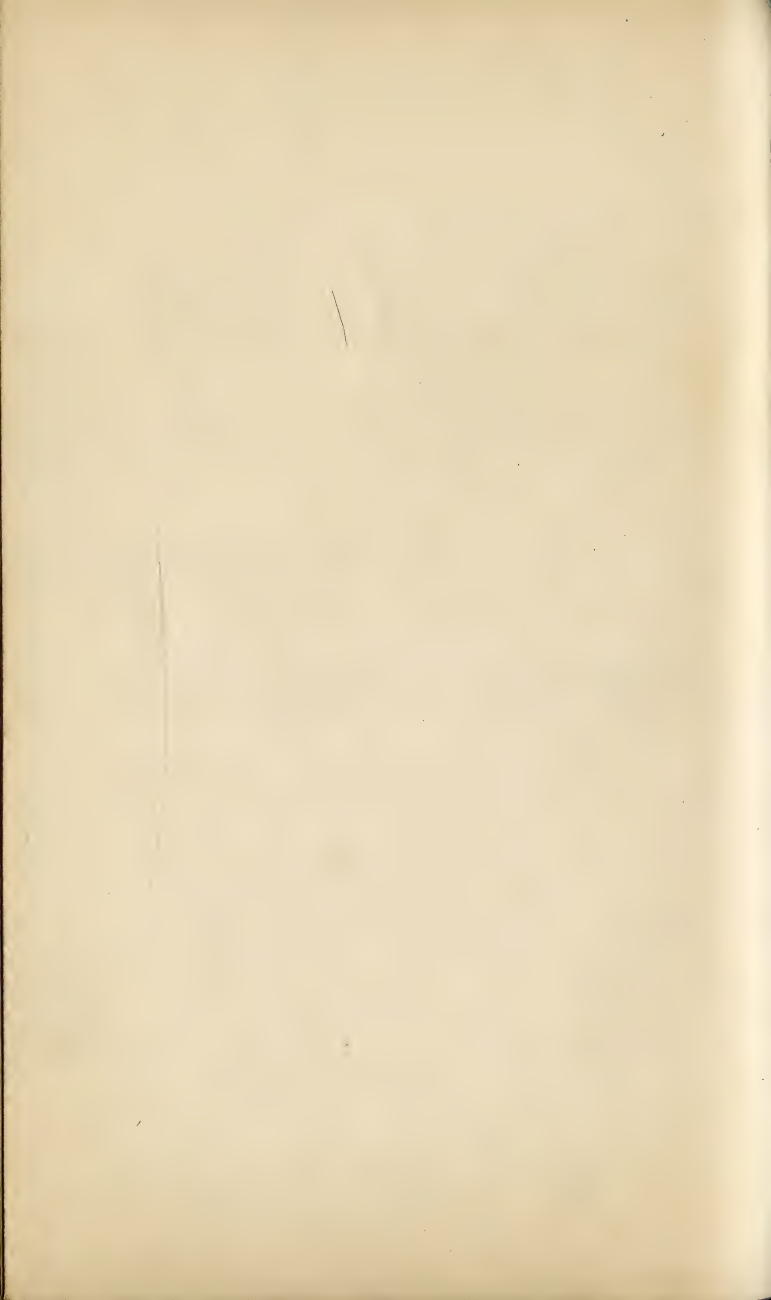
all classes together, from the Peer to the Peasant. It is the English man's peculiar privilege. It is not to be found in any other part of the globe, but in England's true land of liberty—and may it flourish to the end of time!!

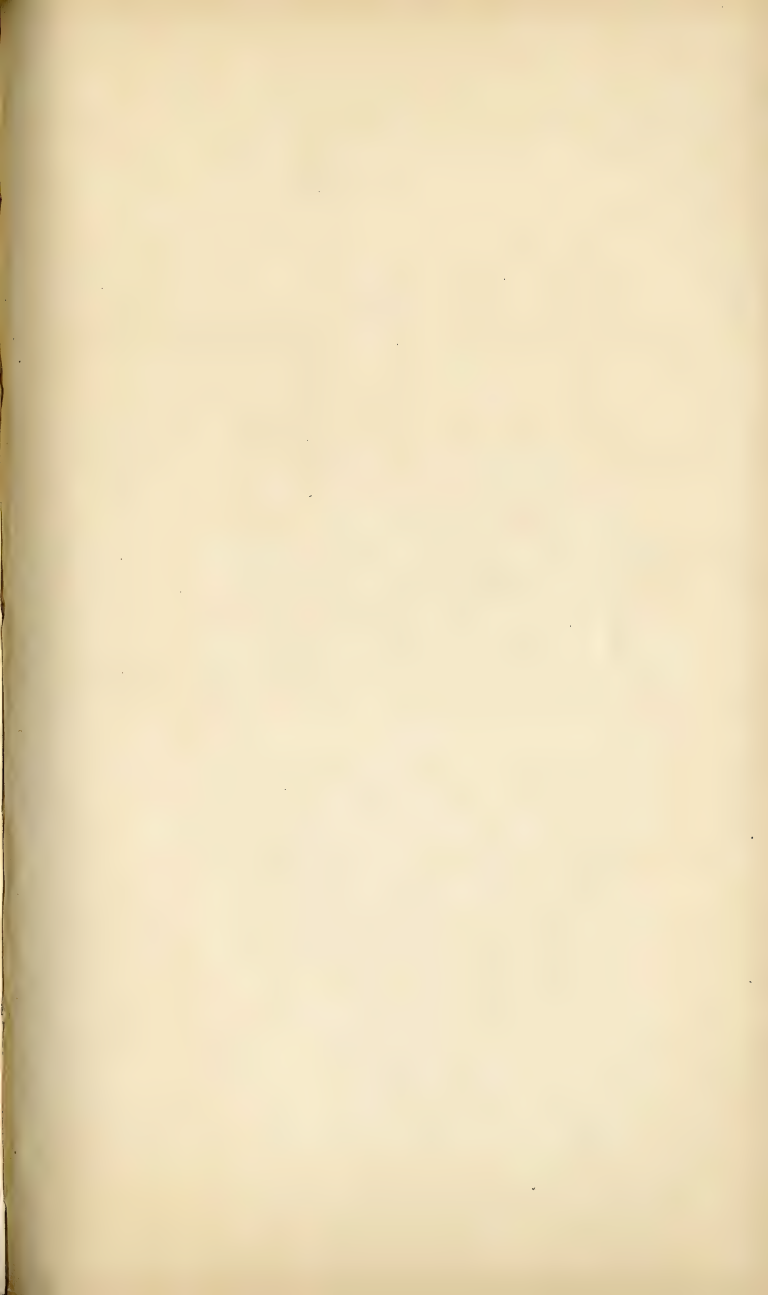
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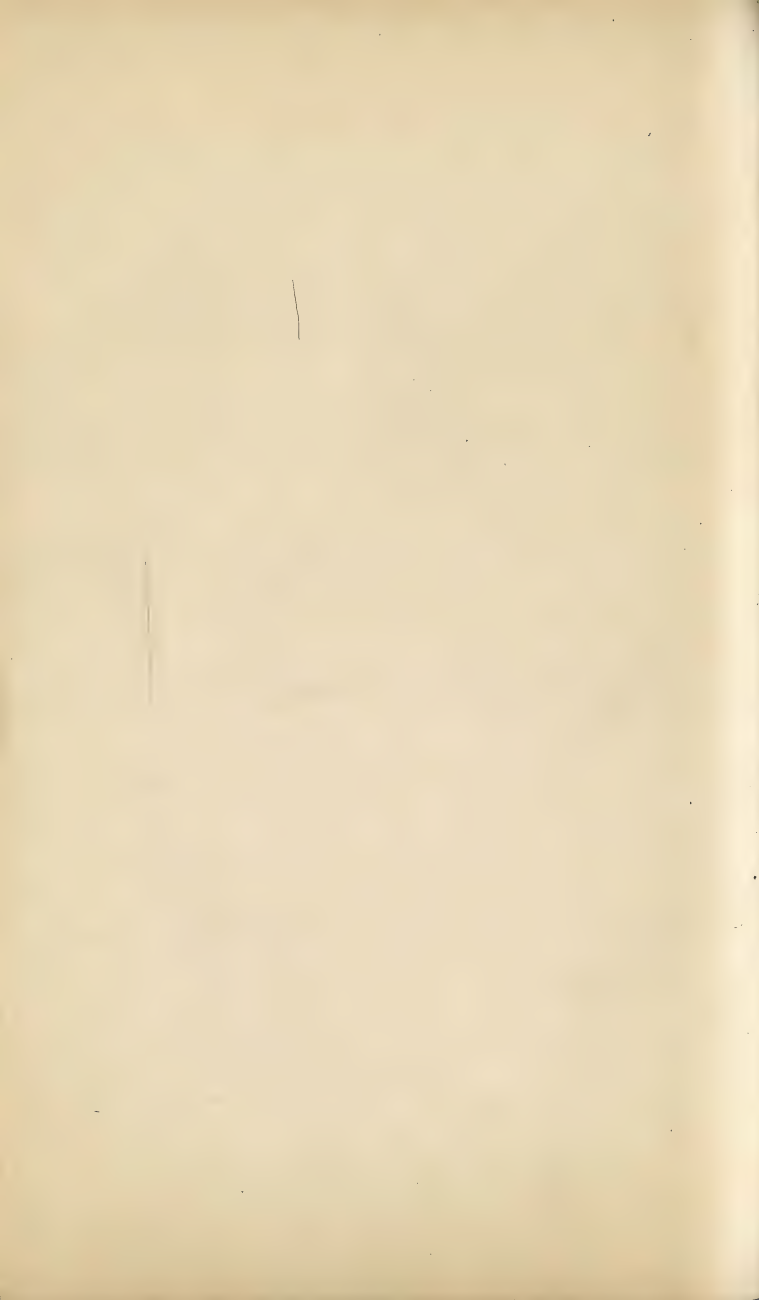


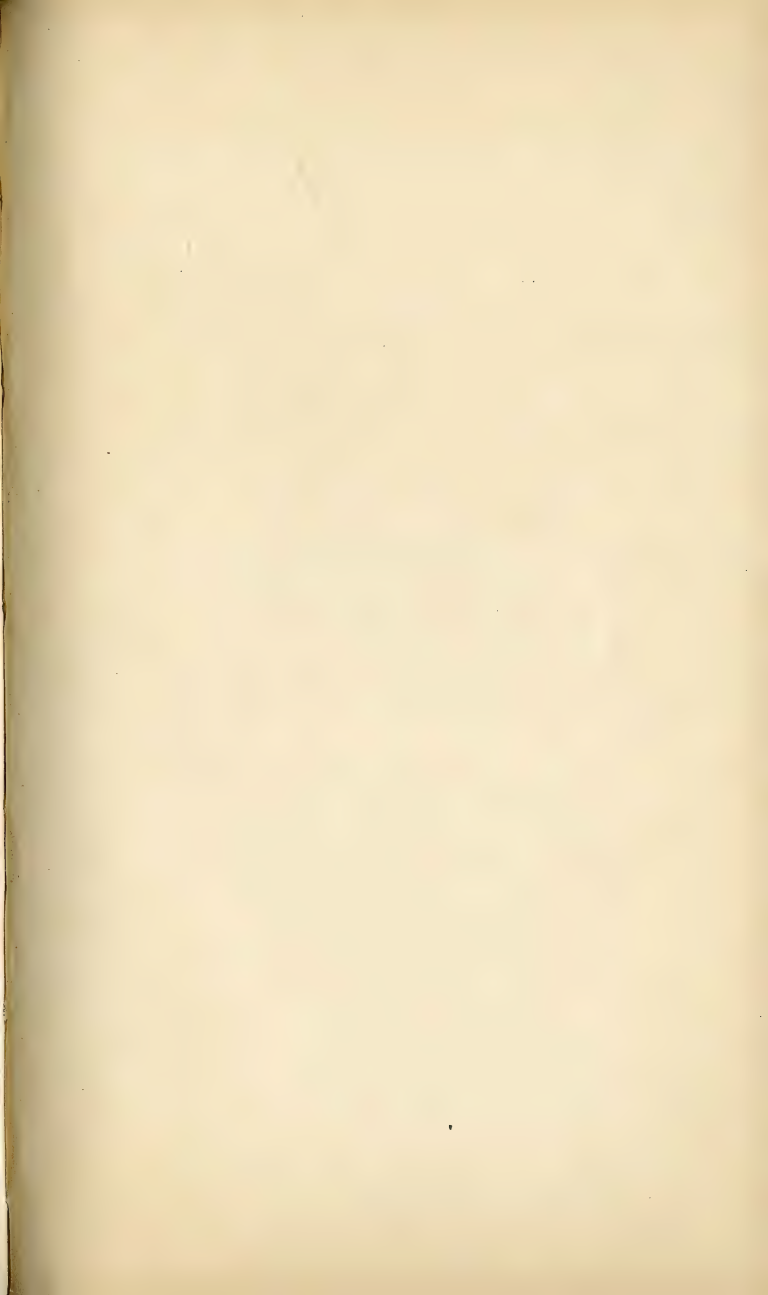


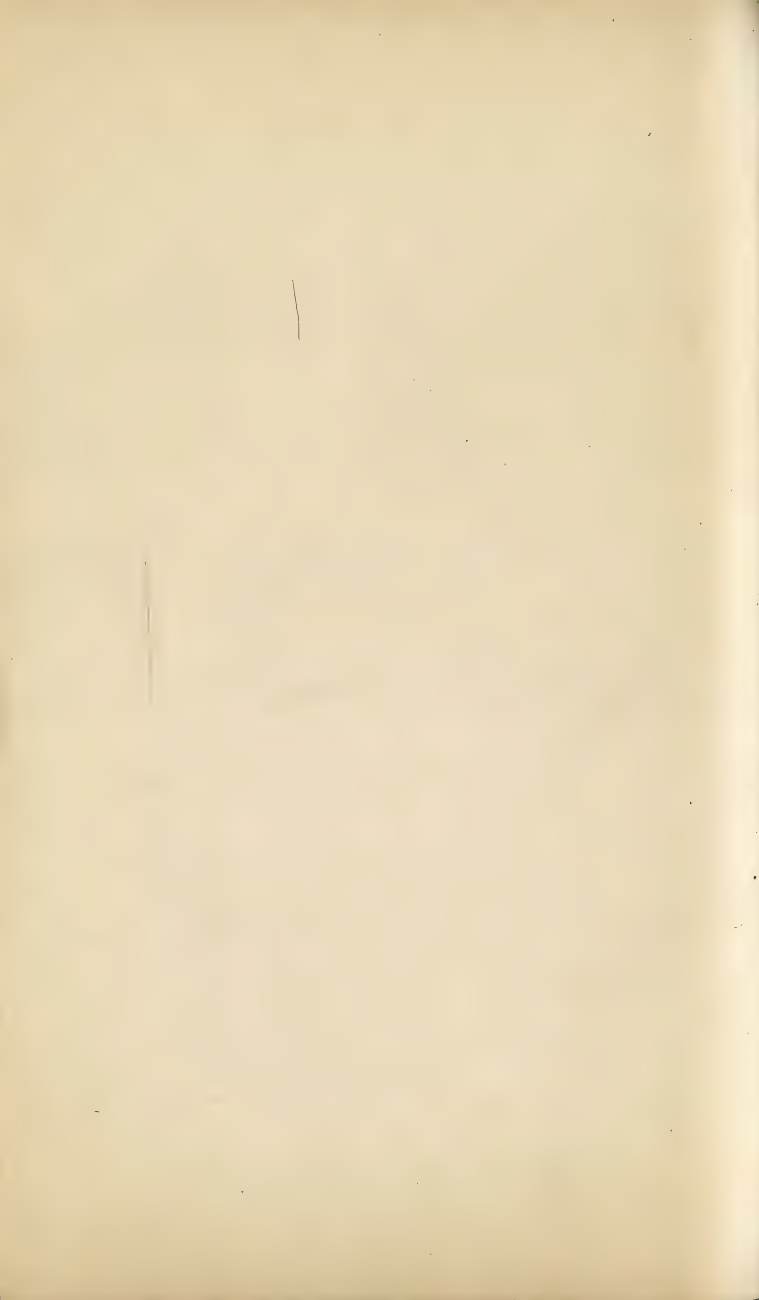


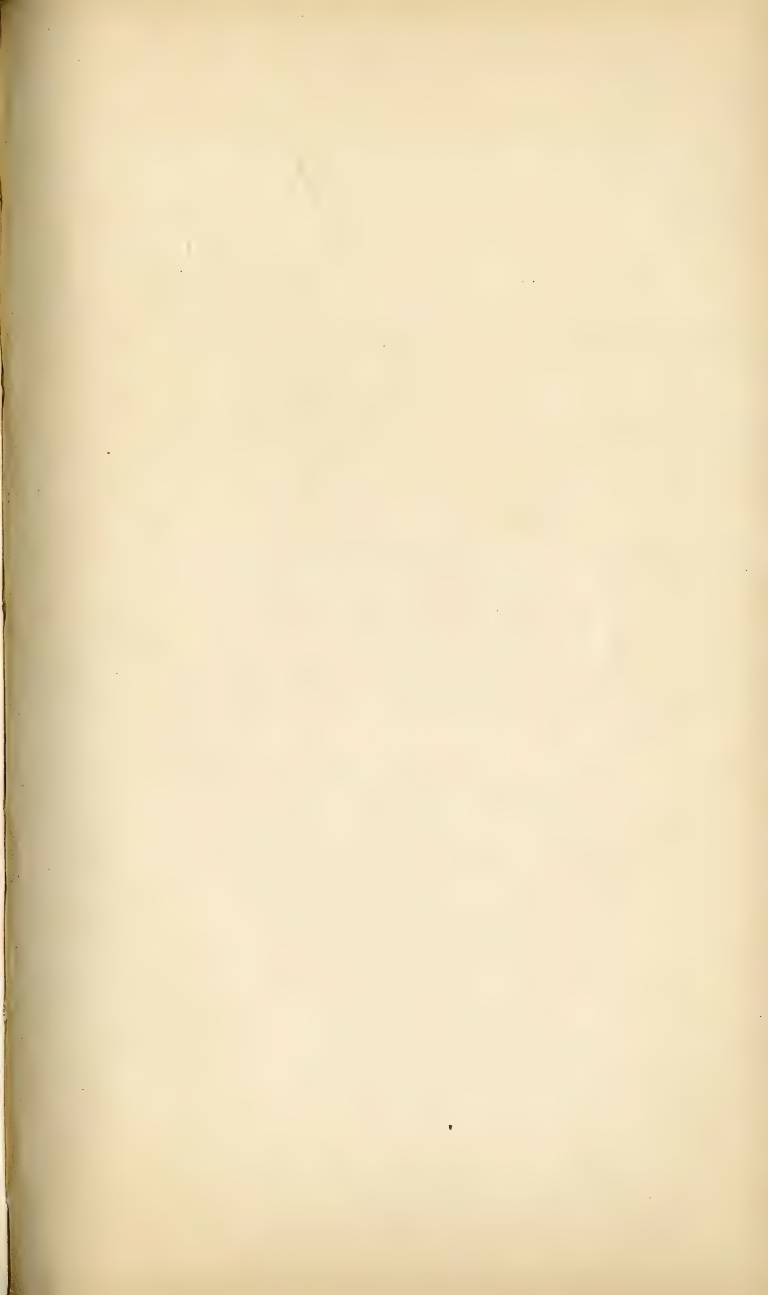


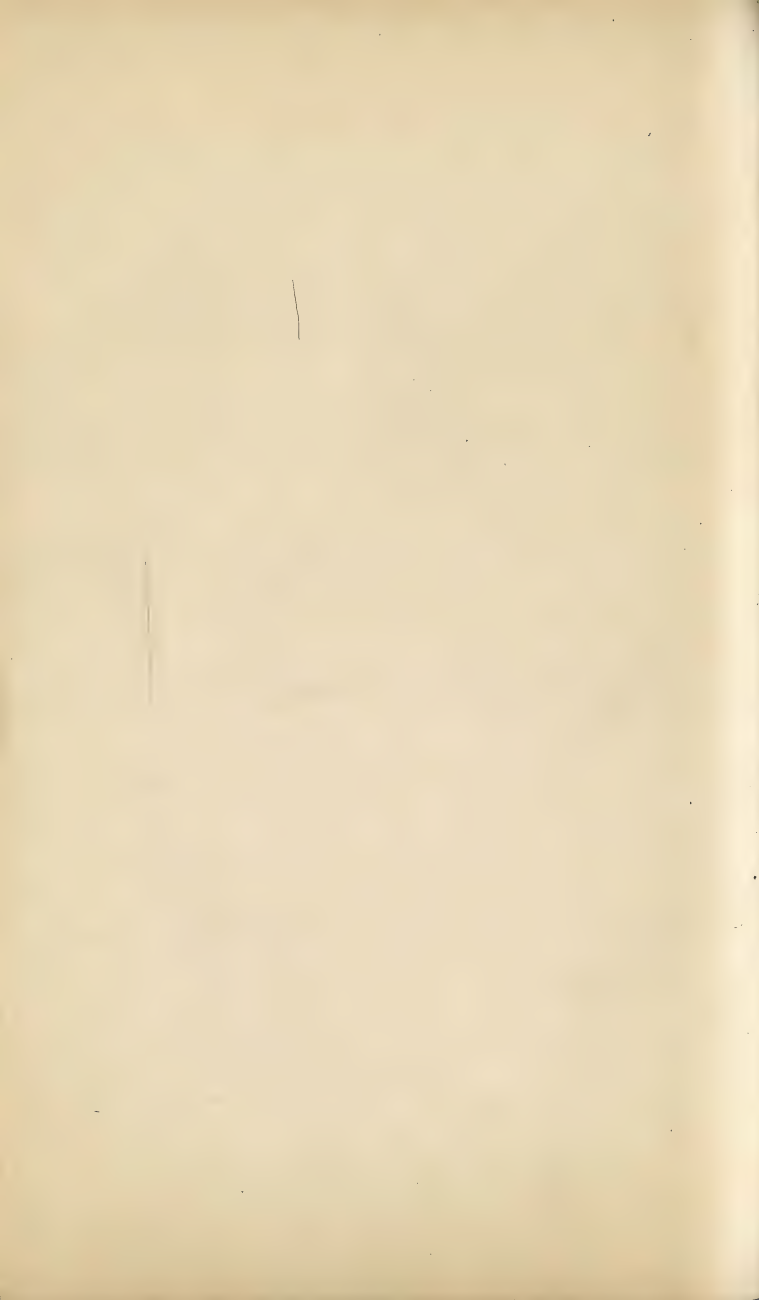


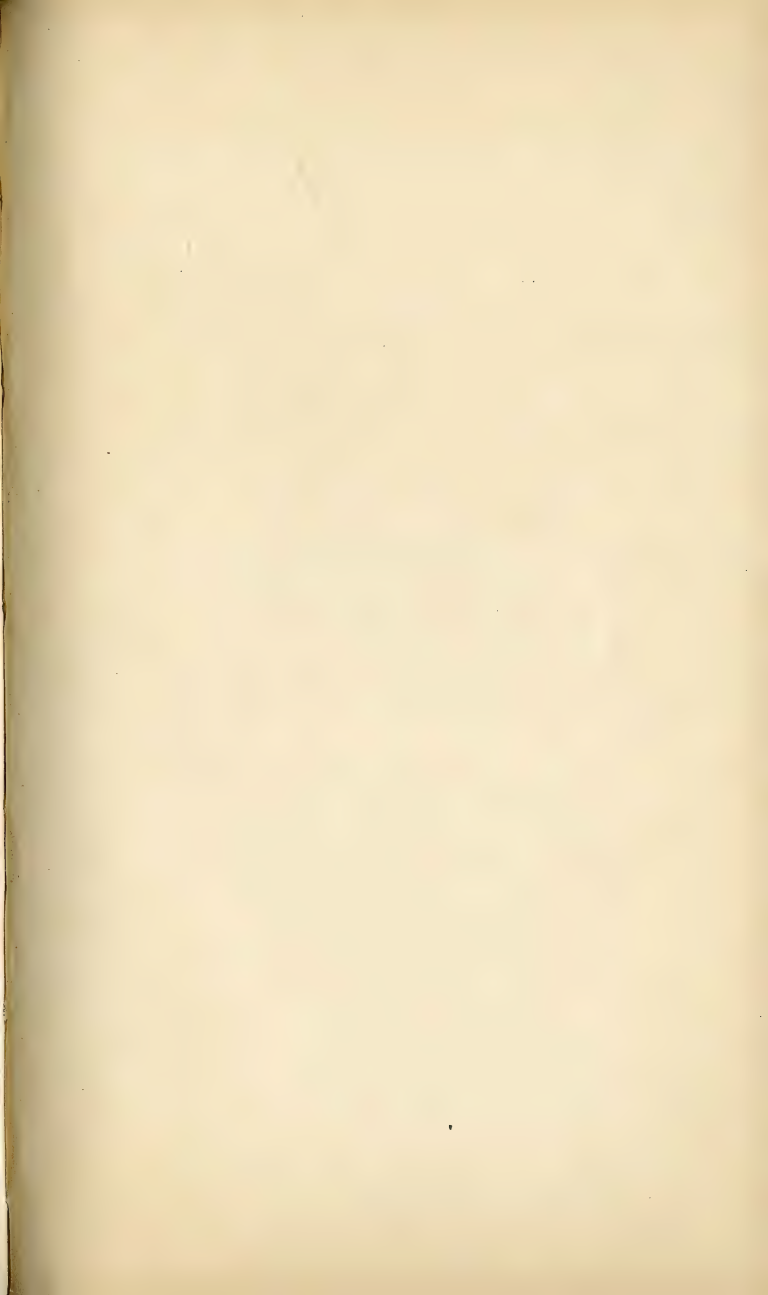


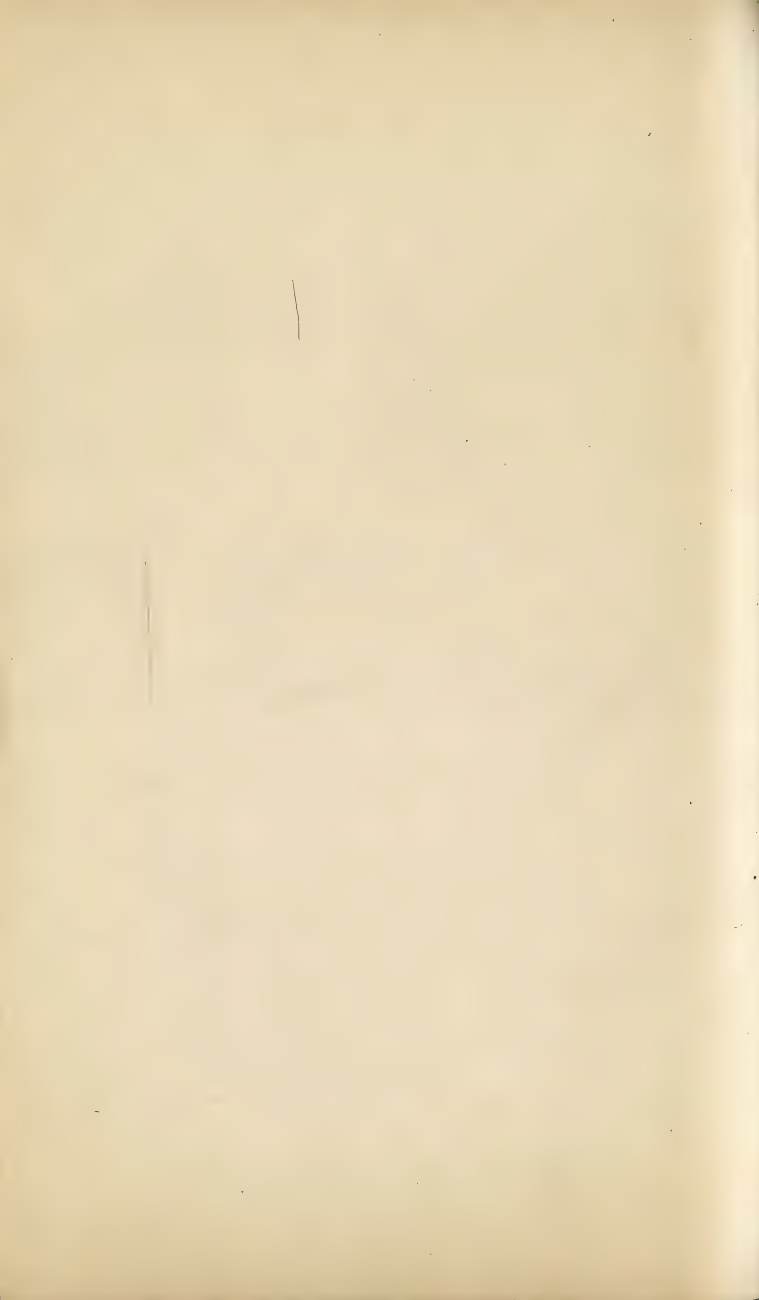


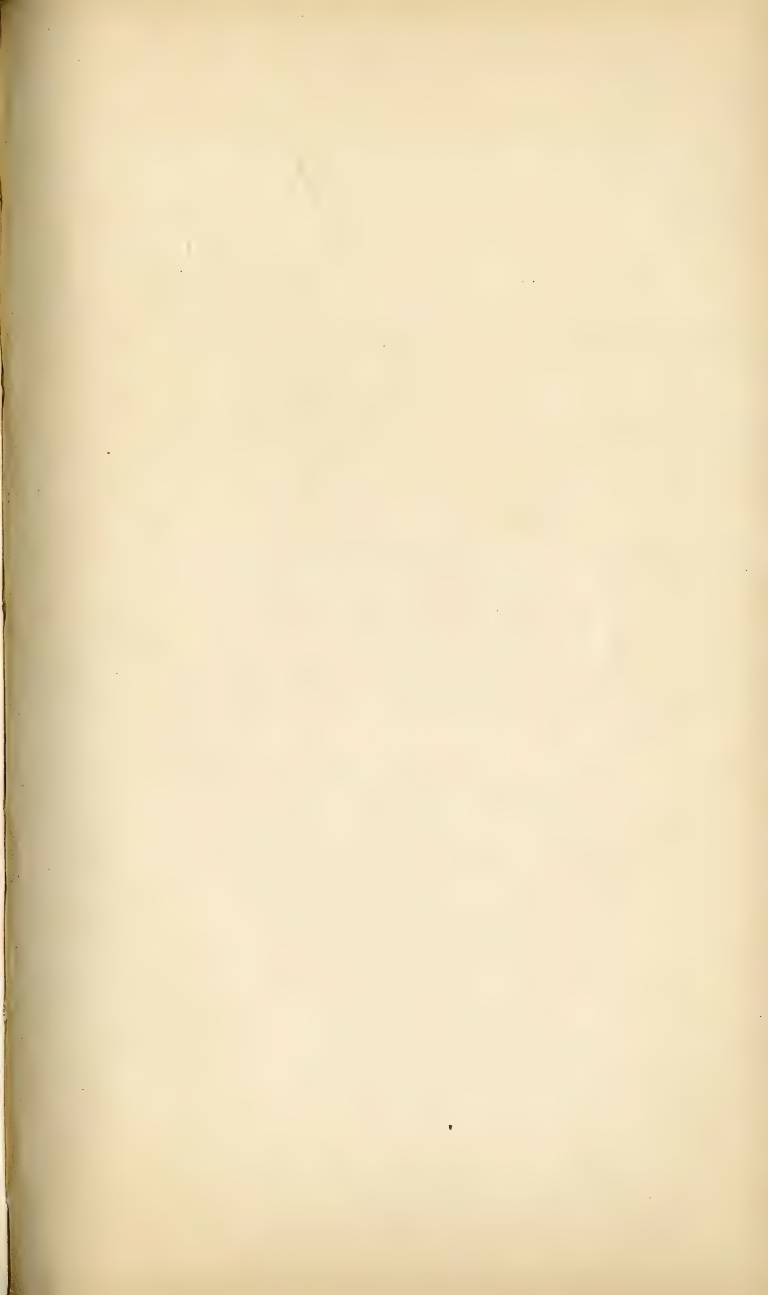


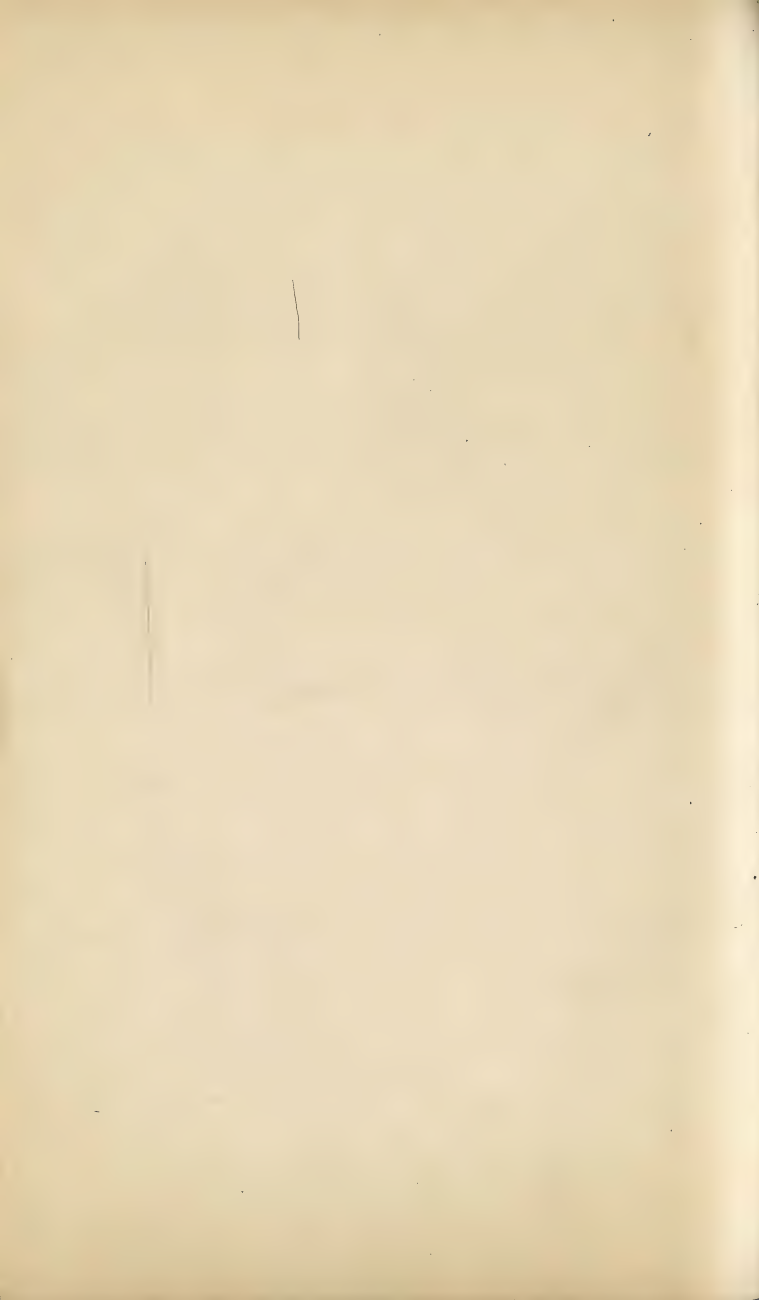


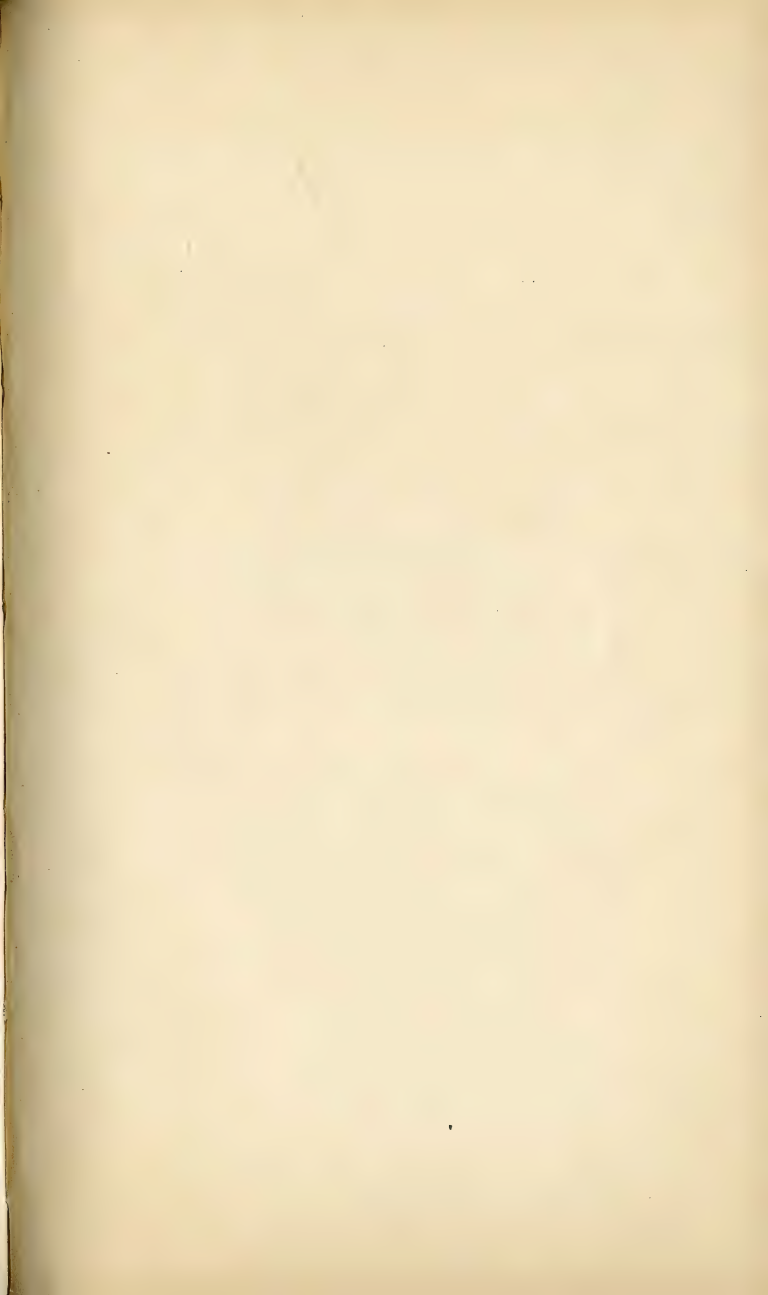


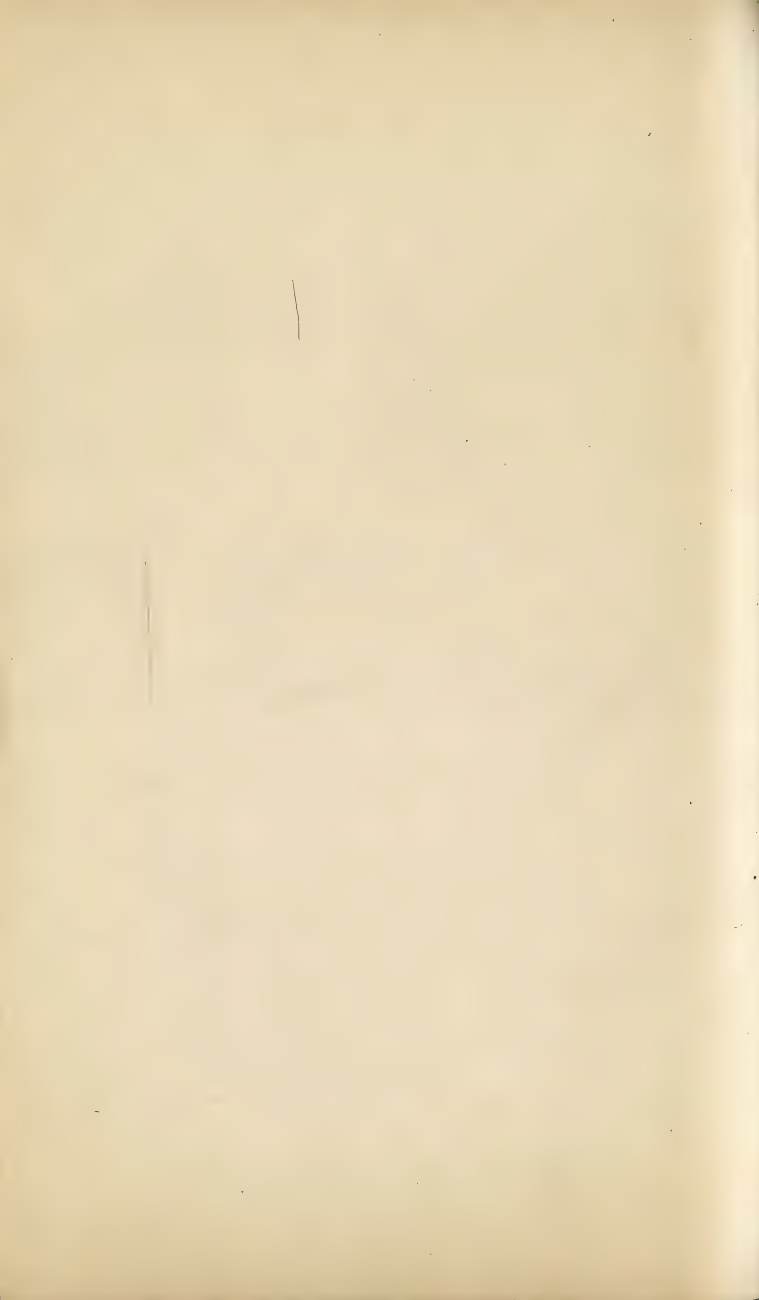


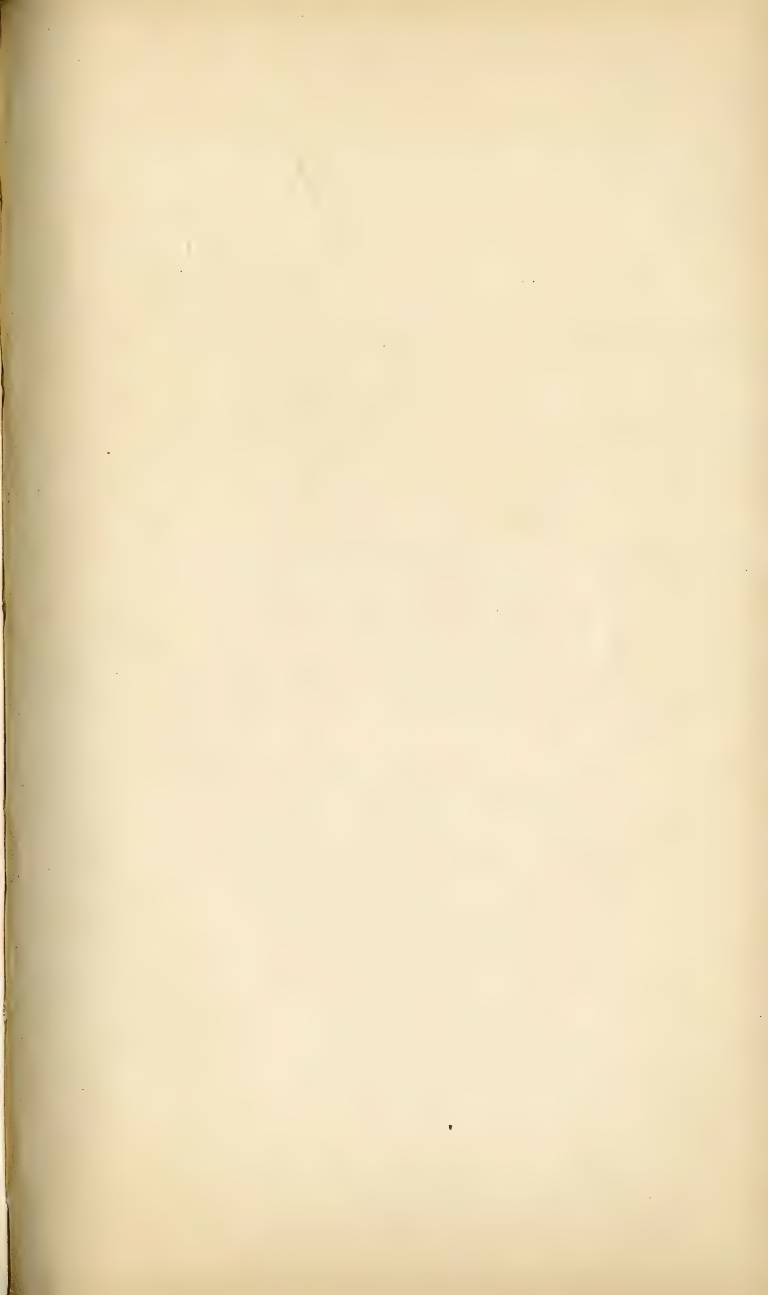


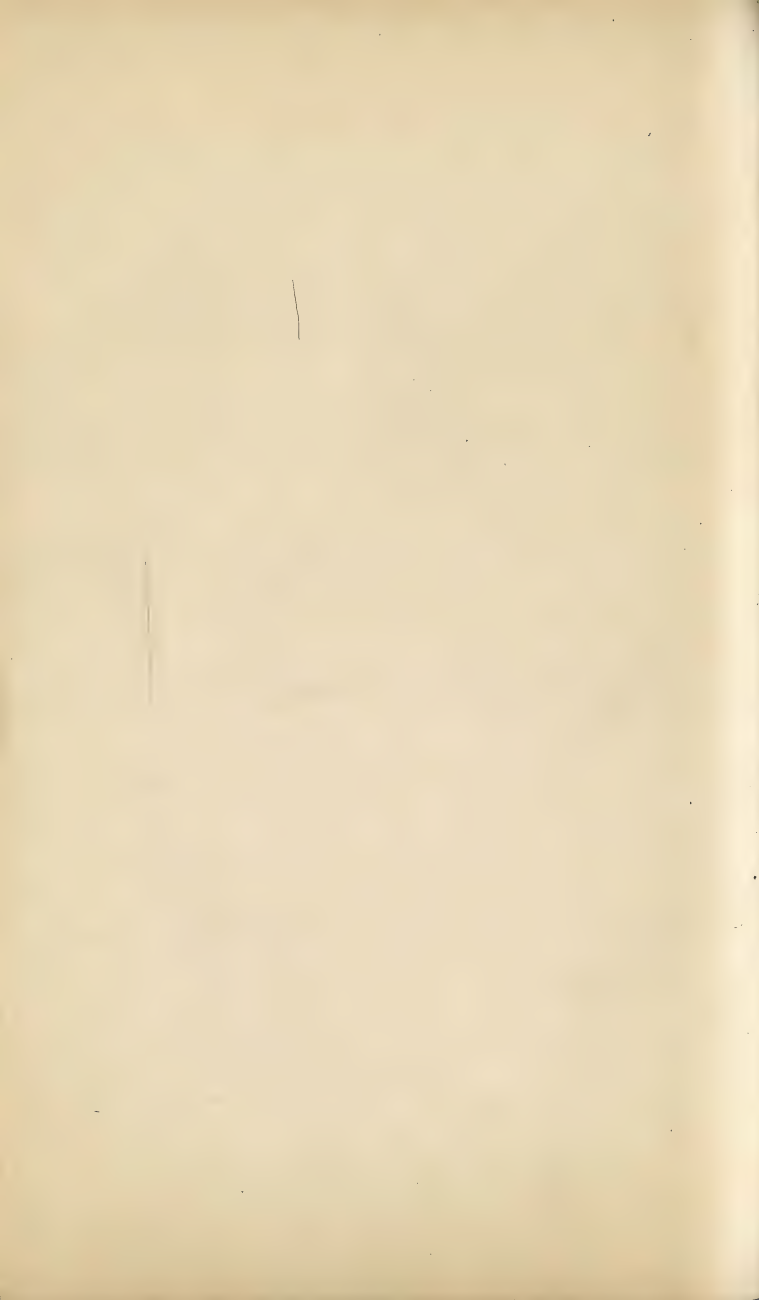


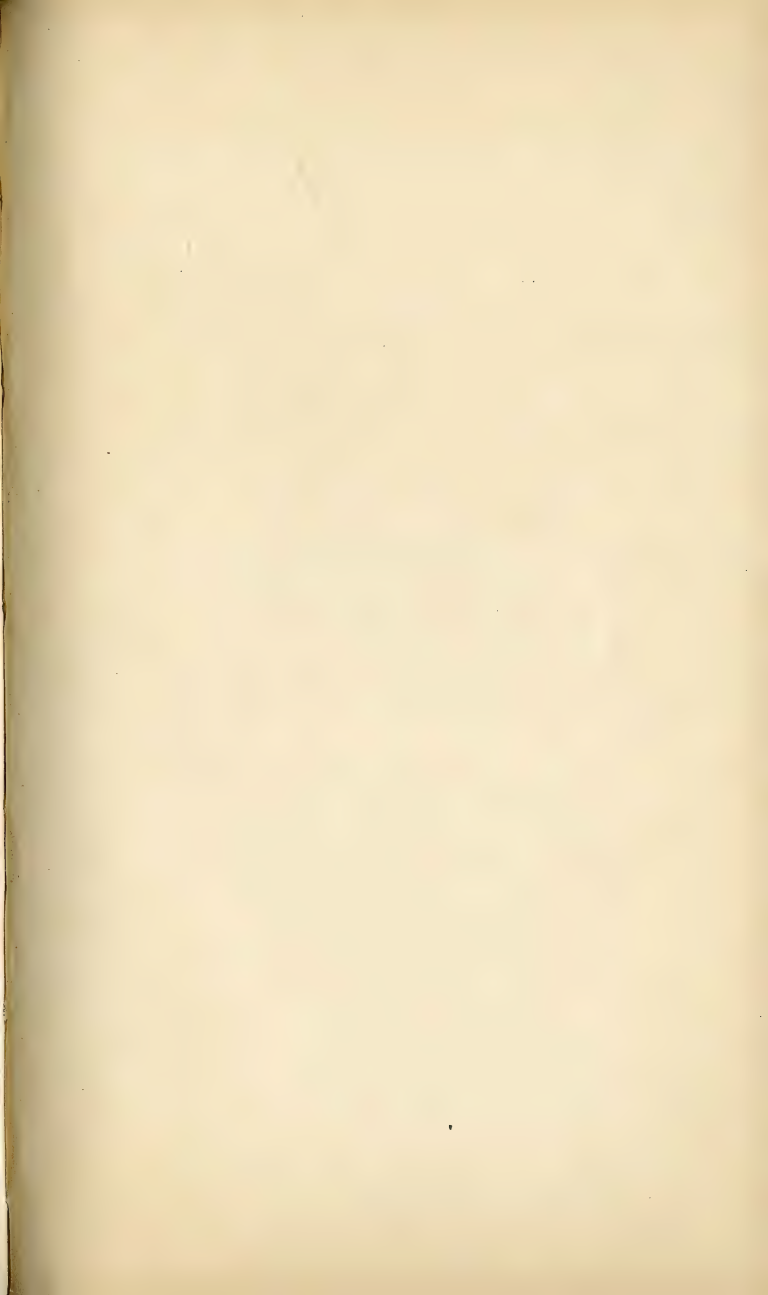














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